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of the sink consist, not of marine deposits, but of subaërial desert wash. This was doubtless formed above sea-level. It is possible that the basin sank gradually below sea-level contemporaneously with the building of the delta across the Gulf trough, so that the ocean never got into the upper portion of the valley. Probably the river did not build its delta across while the region was above the sea, for it has a habit of switching on its delta and had it done so before the sinking it would have broken the dam of the detrital delta and washed it away.

The Blake Sea did not last long, to judge from its shore-lines. The much smaller Salton Sea will not last a score of years, and the irruption of Colorado River water is a normal event in the history of a river swinging on its conic delta. It occurred in 1905 because conditions were then ready at the river mouth. Perhaps the Imperial Valley irrigation works had less to do with it than has been supposed. Other floods, of greater or less extent have broken into the basin in 1828, '40, '49, '52, '59, '62, and '91, and the same thing has been happening for perhaps 1,000 years.

MARK JEFFERSON.

**Alaskan Glacier Studies of the National Geographic Society in the Yakutat Bay, Prince William Sound and Lower Copper River Regions.** By Ralph Stockman Tarr and Lawrence Martin, xxvii and 498 pp. Maps, ills., index. National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C., 1914. 10½ x 8.

The field work upon which these studies are based was carried out in the summer seasons of 1909, 1910, 1911 and 1913, with funds furnished largely by the National Geographic Society. Popular and technical reports have both been published at intervals during the progress of the work, but the present volume brings all together in easily accessible form together with considerable new matter. Before the volume was completed, the much lamented death of Professor Tarr occurred, and the last eleven chapters, which deal with the glaciers of Prince William Sound and the Lower Copper River, have been written by the junior author independently.

For such comprehensive studies of a great scenic area open to tourists in some sections, and likely to be increasingly so in others in the near future, it must be admitted that the dress of the volume leaves something to be desired. It is a great pity that the magnificent photograph of Mount Fairweather (15,330 ft. high), which is made the frontispiece, could not have been reproduced by some more satisfactory process than the half-tone plate.

As regards the scientific work, it should be said in general that this has added materially to our knowledge of the characteristics of existing glaciers of the mountain type where they are more adequately nourished than elsewhere upon the globe. Nowhere else is so wide a range in type represented, and it must be a matter of regret that a new classification should be offered which requires the separation of a continuous mass of ice into its component parts and the ascribing to each, in some instances, of a separate type name. Of perhaps the greatest interest in connection with these investigations are the conclusions reached concerning the relation of sudden advances in the glacier fronts and the avalanching of snow by earthquakes within the high areas of alimentation. By noting the time separating the shocks from the times of advance of glaciers of different lengths, it was shown that the delay of the advance at the front is directly proportional to the length of the glacier.

By full use of data derived from earlier expeditions, conclusions of great value have been drawn concerning those advances and recessions of the glacier fronts which are to be ascribed to climatic changes. Detailed surveys of many small areas, generally near the front of the Alaskan glaciers, were made by the surveyors attached to the expeditions, and the results are presented in a series of small special maps, which are included with the general map of Alaska in a pocket at the end of the volume.

The book will be read with interest by many who class themselves as "general readers;" and the glacialist will find it indispensable as a summary of what has been accomplished in a study of the glaciers of the Alaskan field. Though they may serve the general reader, the views of the capitol at Wash-

ington and of New York "skyscrapers" which are superimposed upon some of the finest pictures in order to supply a scale, will be deemed by the glacialists to have seriously marred the views on which they appear.

WILLIAM HERBERT HOBBS.

**History of Canadian Wealth.** By Gustavus Myers. Vol. 1: 337 pp. C. H. Kerr & Co., Chicago, 1914. \$1.50.  $7\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ .

Furs, from the days of the earliest explorers to the present, have figured as one of the largest influences in the development of Canada. Nine chapters of the seventeen are given to a discussion of furs and the formation of the Hudson Bay Company. The exploitations of the latter, its methods of doing business, its development into a sort of department store for the wilderness, its tremendous profits and the final passing of its sovereignty are all thoroughly treated. The remainder of the book presents the story of the railroad development of Canada as a factor of the unfolding or uncovering of the vast natural resources. The writer has spared no effort to trace evidence back to original sources for verification and expansion.

EUGENE VAN CLEEF.

**British Columbia.** By Ford Fairford. With an introduction by the Hon. J. H. Turner. xiii and 137 pp. Map, ills., index. Pitman & Sons, New York, 1914. 75 cents.  $7\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ .

This little volume, written by one who for many years has been in close touch with the economic and social life of British Columbia, gives concise and definite information of the natural resources of the province, of what already has been done toward their development, and of the possibilities of future expansion. There are also chapters on law, revenue, expenditure and taxation; social conditions; climate; and labor, wages and the cost of living. The writer has unbounded faith in the future of the province which he thinks will be, by 1950, "a densely populated and prosperous country."

AVARD L. BISHOP.

**The Story of Mexico.** Complete—Authoritative—Up-to-Date. Giving a comprehensive history of this romantic and beautiful land from the days of Montezuma and the Empire of the Aztecs to the present time. By Charles Morris. 338 pp. Map, ills. J. C. Winston Co., Philadelphia, 1914. \$1.20.  $9 \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ .

A popular compilation from recent works, magazine and newspaper articles concerning Mexico. The introduction contains some account of the oft-told ethnology of Mexico. Then follow chapters on the geography and geology, the condition and modes of life of the people, the vegetable and mineral products, the exploitation of the laboring classes, descriptions of the capital and other cities, the hunting and shooting facilities, chapters on education, religion, and civilization, railroads and commerce, and on government and administration. Finally the usual history of the country is taken up. The conquest of Cortez, the Mexican war, the French invasion, the administrations of Porfirio Diaz and Madero, United States intervention, and the present civil war are rehearsed. As a whole, the book gives a good idea of present conditions in Mexico.

## SOUTH AMERICA

**The Papers of the Stanford Expedition to Brazil in 1911.** J. C. Branner, Director. Vol. 1: 499 pp. Ills. Stanford University, Cal., 1914.  $10 \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ .

Under this title twenty papers, published in various scientific periodicals and treating of the geology, ichthyology, entomology and malacology of northeastern Brazil, are combined in one volume. The subject matter is based on explorations and collections made in 1911 by the Stanford University Expedition throughout the coast belt from Para to Pernambuco.

In the first paper, "The Fluting and Pitting of Granites in the Tropics" (*Proc. Amer. Philos. Soc.*, No. 209, Vol. 52), Dr. J. C. Branner presents evi-